

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

10545 Armstrong Ave., Suite 200 · Mather, CA 95655 · Phone (916) 859-4300 · Fax (916) 859-3702

ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT
Thursday, April 3, 2014 – 5:00 p.m.
10545 Armstrong Avenue – Board Room
Mather, California

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Orzalli. Board members present: Goold, Jones, Kelly, Monk, Orzalli, Pierson, Scheidegger and Wood. Board members absent: Clark. Staff present: Chief Henke, Board Clerk Penilla, Interim Board Clerk Kelly and General Counsel Larva.

PLEDGE TO FLAG

PUBLIC WORKSHOP ON FIRE SUPPRESSION BENEFIT ASSESSMENT

President Orzalli introduced Mark Mandell who addressed the letter Metro Fire received from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment

A. Overview of Cost Reduction Measures (Henke/Holbrook)

Recommendation: Receive presentation on Cost Reduction Measures **Action**: Received presentation by Chief Henke. Chief Henke's presentation on Restoring Firefighting Capability for Our Region detailed Metro Fire's fiscal challenges, service impacts, fiscal forecast, and the planning, oversight and timeline as it relates to the fire suppression benefit assessment.

B. Presentation of Citygate Associates, LLC Revenue-to-Service Review

Recommendation: Receive presentation on Revenue-to-Service Review

Action: No presentation

C. Property Tax Review (Campo)

Recommendation: Receive presentation on Property Tax Review

Action: No presentation

D. Presentation of Willdan Financial Services Fire Suppression Assessment Engineer's Report

Recommendation: Receive presentation on Fire Suppression Assessment Engineer's

Report

Action: No presentation

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Orzalli requests Board Clerk Penilla read a letter from Mr. Timothy Murphy with Aerojet Rocketdyne into the record. Mr. Murphy served on the Citizens Advisory Committee giving him the opportunity to work with Metro Fire's staff and have an understanding of District operations. He expressed his support on the recommendation that has come from the Citizen's Advisory Committee, and supports the District's efforts to put the assessment to a vote of the taxpayers.

Jim Baker commented that if this assessment moves forward members of the public must receive a special benefit. He expressed that while not everyone in the community will need this special benefit, everyone will be required to pay for it. Mr. Baker feels this is a general benefit rather than a special benefit.

Cory Koehler from the Rental Housing Association of Sacramento Valley (RHA) thanked Chief Henke for his recent presentation to RHA discussing the Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment. Mr. Koehler and RHA are concerned about the benefit assessment and current wages and salaries for Metro employees. He concluded with his belief that property revenue growth will increase based on the recent real estate data in the Sacramento region.

Debra Desrosiers spoke about property and business taxes and the laws in place to keep property taxes in check. She commented that this benefit assessment is not distinguishable between a special or general benefit. She appreciated the clarification on the weighted ballot process provided by Deputy Chief Holbrook. Ms. Desrosiers concluded that she opposes the benefit assessment.

Julie Linderman is a resident of Arden-Arcade who was affected by the consolidation of the Arden-Area stations. Ms. Linderman expressed concerns about assessments for federal properties, public school properties, and state properties. She questioned the anticipated property growth in the area and how it relates to the benefit assessment going forward. She encouraged Metro Fire to continue to adjust salary and benefit structures to be more in-line with today's economy.

Victoria Davi came to the meeting with two concerns, employee salaries and cost saving measures. There was no accountability or oversight for pay increases leading to high salaries in previous years. She encourages Metro Fire to revisit costs to strategically save money. She currently opposes the benefit assessment until there is a permanent solution and accountability.

Dan Heideman discussed Article 13D, Proposition 218 and how it relates to Special Districts. He understands Metro Fire needs more revenue, however using Prop 218 to generate more revenue is not the proper application of the Proposition. He appreciates the cuts Metro Fire made and encourages more cuts in the future. Mr. Heideman commits to donating double the benefit assessment if it does not pass.

Tim Cahill, President of Charles C. Bell Company, thanked Chief Henke for speaking with him over the last several days. Mr. Cahill questions why fire suppression is the major beneficiary for the proposed benefit assessment, when EMS calls represent a majority of 911 calls.

Gregg Fishman agrees with Mr. Cory Koehler from the RHA. Additionally, Mr. Fishman is concerned with employee salaries as they relate to surrounding agencies and how increased property tax revenue will contribute in the future. He recommends allowing more time before

voting on the benefit assessment to reduce the assessment or shorten the timeframe it is collected.

Patrick Lieuw, past President of the Sacramento Association of Realtors (SAR), served on the Citizen's Task Force where he had the opportunity to watch Metro Fire operate honestly and openly with the community to formulate the benefit assessment. He explained how the benefit assessment being brought to the Board of Directors is reasonable and fairly developed. He supports the proposal on behalf of the SAR and urges the Board to approve the assessment.

Curt Haven, Director of Economic Development with the City of Rancho Cordova, served on the Citizen's Advisory Committee. He provided a letter to distribute to the Board of Directors in support of adopting the Resolution of Intent to proceed with the balloting process. Mr. Haven was very involved with the committee and stayed engaged throughout the process. He suggests the community be allowed to vote on the level of fire service they will receive.

Ken Payne, with the Sacramento Taxpayers Association, is taking a position to oppose the proposed assessment. He provided a letter to the Board which was distributed during his public comment. He wished the Taxpayers Association would have been involved in the Citizen's Advisory Committee sooner. Mr. Payne encourages the success of Metro Fire and suggests other solutions to increase revenue.

Chris Little thanks everyone for their hard work throughout the process. He addressed hearing about what will happen if the benefit assessment passes, but asks what will happen if it does not pass?

Karen Klinger opposes the benefit assessment. As a member in good standing of the Sacramento Association of Realtors (SAR) she serves the community with the mission statement of SAR, and this assessment does not serve the community in line with the mission statement. She recommends Metro Fire plan for future economic downturns.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATION

Members of the public have addressed correspondence to the Board of Directors related to the proposed Fire Suppression Benefit Assessment:

- 1. Ron Franceschi
- 2. Patrick's New
- David Jinkens

NEXT BOARD MEETING(S):

Unless specified differently, all meetings of the Board are held at Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Mather, CA

- Regular Board Meeting of April 10, 2014 has been cancelled
- Special Board Meeting April 16, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. This meeting was cancelled and publically posted on April 10, 2014
- Next Regular Board Meeting April 24, 2014 at 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Randy Orzalli, President

Dave Pierson, Secretary

Melissa Penilla, Clerk of the Board